



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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8th June 2025 – Pentecost Sunday

CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. 1. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 2. "THE ANNUNCIATION. MARY LISTENS AND IS WILLING (CF. LK 1:26-38)"

At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke shows the effects of the transforming power of the Word of God, which reaches not only the halls of the Temple, but also the poor dwelling of a young woman, Mary, who, betrothed to Joseph, still lives with her family. After Jerusalem, the messenger of the great divine annunciations, Gabriel, is sent to a village never mentioned in the Hebrew Bible: Nazareth. At that time, it was a small village in Galilee, in a remote area of Israel, a border area with the pagans and their contamination.

It is there that the angel brings a message of an entirely unheard-of form and content, so much so that Mary's heart is shaken, disturbed. In the place of the classic greeting, "Peace be with you", Gabriel addresses the Virgin with the invitation "Hail!", "rejoice!", an appeal dear to sacred history, because the prophets use it when they announce the coming of the Messiah (cf. *Zeph* 3:14; *Joel* 2:21-23, *Zec* 9:9). It is the invitation to the joy that the Lord addresses to His people when the exile ends, and the Lord makes His living and active presence felt.

In addition, God calls Mary with a loving name unknown in biblical history: *kecharitoméne*, which means "filled with divine grace". Mary is full of divine grace. This name says that God's love has already for some time inhabited and continues to dwell in Mary's heart. He says how "gracious" she is, and above all how God's grace has accomplished in her an inner engraving, making her His masterpiece: full of grace.

This loving moniker, which God gives only to Mary, is immediately accompanied by reassurance: "Do not be afraid!", "Do not be afraid!": the presence of the Lord always gives us this grace of not fearing, and so He says to Mary: "Do not be afraid!". God says "Do not be afraid" to Abraham, Isaac and Moses in history: "Do not be afraid!" (cf. *Gen* 15:1; 26:24; *Dt* 31:8; *Joshua* 8:1). And He says to us too: "Do not be afraid, keep going; do not be afraid!". "Father, I am afraid of this"; "And what do you do when...". "I am sorry, Father, I will tell you the truth: I go to the fortune teller". "You go to the fortune teller!". "Ah yes, I have my palm read...". Please, do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! This is good. "I am your travelling companion": and He says this to Mary. The "Almighty", the God of the "impossible" (*Lk* 1:37) is *with* Mary, together with and beside her; He is her companion, her principal ally, the eternal "I-with-you" (cf. *Gen* 28:15; *Ex* 3:12; *Jdg* 6:12).

OUR PARISH VISION & MISSION

We are a warm & welcoming community of faith rooted in the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Belonging is at the heart of what we do as members of the body of Christ. We believe worship is not just found in prayer; it's something expressed in everything we do.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	PENTECOST SUNDAY	9:30am	Judith Christley R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Mary, Mother of the Church	1pm	REQUIEM MASS FOR PETER THOMAS	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Anna Coughlan	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Barnabus	9am	Billy Boylan R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
Thursday	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST			
Friday	Saint Anthony of Padua	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TRINITY SUNDAY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Michael Christopoher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Peter Francis Upton at Our Lady's and Anna Coughlan at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

Sr Mary Brennan rc, Sr Anne FCM, Ian Christley, Anne Cumings, Vinny Healey, Peter Thomas & Patricia Ann Tierney.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2025

That the world might grow in compassion. Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his heart learn to have compassion on the world.

PARISH

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL – Today we welcome Fr Henry Somah from the Society of African Missions (The White Fathers) who will be making this year's Mission Appeal. There will be a collection that to be support the ongoing work of evangelisation by the society.

STEPS OF HOPE – Pete Graham would like to thank parishioners for their extraordinary generosity. You gave £200.70 across the two weekends to support the work of Caritas. You can still donate via the QR code on the poster in the porch. Please also consider regular giving to support their vital work. www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

PENTECOST 2 CATHEDRALS WALK will be held today, 3pm–5pm. This year's theme: Pilgrims of Hope. Walk with us in a powerful celebration of Pentecost, as we journey together between Liverpool Cathedral & the Metropolitan Cathedral. Starting at Liverpool Cathedral at 3pm this symbolic walk unites all communities in faith, reflection & joy. The celebrations will begin with a short act of worship at Liverpool Cathedral & include the story of Pentecost, hymns & stalls on the piazza of the Metropolitan Cathedral. The choirs of both cathedrals & a Salvation Army Band will be involved. All are welcome!

PARLIAMNETARY END OF LIFE BILL – included with this week's newsletter is a statement from the Bishops of England & Wales about the End of Life bill which is returning to parliament for its third reading in the next two weeks. Please do petition our MP Alison McGovern to vote against it.

SUNDAY RAFFLE – For the next few weeks, a raffle will be held after Sunday Mass at Our Lady's Church. Proceeds will be to support the Parish BBQ and the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes (see below). Donations of gifts/bottles etc for prizes will be gratefully received.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - SUNDAY 6TH JULY – our parish BBQ will again take place this summer after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden, donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall, please leave them at the back of either church. Please bring family & friends with you. Volunteers will also be needed to help with set up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up!

JUBILEE YEAR LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – Currently there are 15 seats available on the coach, 1 seat left on the pilgrimage plane, and 3 seats left on a flight from Luton (coach travel transfer included). This is the last call for any pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes with the Diocese this year, we are very close to now closing the bookings for our 2025 pilgrimage. Booking forms are still available on our website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, two of the young people from our Birkenhead Confirmation group will be introducing themselves at Mass NEXT Sunday 15th June. The cost of the pilgrimage is £725, they have received £250 in grants, I would like them to be able to get £250 from our parish & the same Saint Joseph's, Upton. We will use the proceeds from the parish BBQ to support them. Anything over £250 raised will also go to them. They will be back after the summer with photos to tell you all about their experiences.

EASTER GARDEN – Volunteers are required to help disassemble the garden after Mass today.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? – Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org.

ALONE OR BORED IN YOUR MARRIAGE? – Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope

and healing for their marriage. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

SUPPORTING THE VOCATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE – all those who are interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family are invited to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various ways you can help. 7th June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07549226794.

REFLECTION DAY LED BY CAFOD – Faith in action during the Jubilee Year. Join us to reflect on the theme of hope and how we can make a difference to our global family and more locally. Hear from various parish groups who have already taken on this challenge and be inspired to be a Pilgrim of Hope. Saturday 14th June, 10am–3.30pm at St Alban's Church, Liscard, Wallasey. For more information and to register please email kkeen@cafod.org.uk or call 07920 232 936. Light refreshments provided but please bring a packed lunch.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 21st June at Holy Angels, Hale Barns, followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. Parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary can apply for an invitation from the Bishop's Office to Fr Michael.

STREET ANGELS is a nighttime welfare team of volunteers, walking the streets of Birkenhead at weekends helping those in vulnerable & difficult situations. Making Birkenhead feel & be a safer place to live, work & spend time at night. For more information visit www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk There will be a zoom impact assessment meeting on Thurs 12th June at 12:30pm, register at <https://evaluatingtheimpact-streetangelsbirkenhead.eventbrite.co.uk/>

STRONGER TOGETHER COMMUNITY GROUP empowers members to address daily life challenges in a supportive environment. *Tuesday mornings (9:30am–12pm)* in Saint Joseph's parish centre, North Road. The group is facilitated by Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

PARISH FINANCES

1st June 2025

Offertory – £518.39 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)

£0 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £25.10

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



STANDING ORDERS – You can set one up through your online banking or via the form which is available from the parish office. If you are a UK taxpayer, please gift aid these payments.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number in the draw held on 31st May 2025 was 52 but as there was no winner the prize money will roll over to next weeks draw. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers to buy is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.

STAMPS & GLASSES - These are donated to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of each church for any used stamps or glasses you have.